5:Maziliūnas G-4, 5 (no date)1939 RB5 Lithuanians RB5

562 873 the others are mixed but in the larger schools in which parallel classes exist, separate classes for boys and girls are established.

875 [658] The extension of the network of secondary schools produced in the first years of Lithuania's independence a shortage of teachers, and educating a staff was undertaken by the State. Teachers were trained in foreign universities, and from 1922 onwards in the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas, as well. Most of the 1,432 teachers now employed are university graduates and possess the qualifications required by the Ministry of Education. They are classified as junior teachers, teachers, and senior teachers. The rank of junior teacher is granted to persons who have taken a university course in psychology, pedagogics, the history of pedagogics, pedology, and the methodology of their specialties, or have passed examinations in these subjects and have completed their studies in the subjects necessary for the teaching of their specialty. Junior teachers who have taught successfully not less than 2 years and have conducted two probational lessons in their specialty may be elevated by the Ministry of Education to the rank of teacher. Teachers who have taught with outstanding success for at least 5 years may be raised to senior teachers.

School Competitions

873 555 A State physical culture badge to encourage physical fitness, scout troops and circles, camps for students, and travel during the vacation period are all connected with secondary education, but perhaps the most noteworthy activity to promote all-sided scholastic progress and interscholastic cooperation is the school competitions that were organized first in 1935 and take place at the end of the school year.

In these competitions the secondary schools strive for supremacy in the reading and recitation of Lithuanian, French, and German, drawing, singing, and physical culture. In

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555 each school near the close of the year, the pupils who have shown the most ability are selected from each class. The pick of these are chosen, in the course of a public performance, to represent the gymnasium in the district contest. The picked teams, usually numbering 1,000 to 1,500 students, meet on an appointed day to compete for first place in the district. From them the best readers, reciters, draughtsmen, choirs, sportsmen, etc., are selected to participate in the finals which take place most often at Kaunas. There the teams from the seven districts into which Lithuania is divided for this purpose, compete for the National first, second, and third places. On this occasion festivities on a larger scale are organized and the winners are awarded special prizes. The competitions have been found to promote a will to work among the students, and give them an opportunity to acquire a better knowledge of their country and to make useful personal contacts with their fellow students.

873 The institutions of higher education are the University of Vytautas the Great, the Veterinary Academy, State Conservatory of Music, and State Art School, all at Kaunas; Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva; and the Private Commercial Institute, Pedagogical Institute, and Music School, all at Klaipeda. They enroll approximately 4,400 students. The university began in 1579 as the High School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, was later converted into a university, and was closed by the Russians in 1832. As early as December 5, 1918, the Lithuanian State Council passed statutes for this University of Vilnius and it was on the point of reopening in 1919, but military operations intervened and it was not definitely founded until February 16, 1922, at Kaunas. In 1930, when the five hundredth anniversary of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Vytautas the Great, who ruled over a Lithuania that extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, was celebrated with great pomp, the university was renamed in his honor. It is an autonomous institution the powers of which are fixed by the statutes. It is maintained by the state and is connected with the Ministry of Education. During the 16 years of its recent existence, the university has developed into an important educational center which devotes special attention to the study of the Lithuanian language and history.

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